



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL RIGHTS  
EXECUTIVE

LINDA V. PARKER  
DIRECTOR

**For Immediate Release**

**Contacts:**

**Trevor Coleman, Director of Communications**  
**Office: 313-456-3790 Cell: 517-712-5812**

**Harold Core: Director of Public Affairs**  
**Lansing: 517-241-3986**

**Hate Crime Conference to Discuss Solutions for Michigan**

**What:** Statewide conference in response to hate crimes in Michigan

**When:** Friday, September 12, 2008, 7:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Where:** MSU Kellogg Center, 55 South Harrison Rd., East Lansing, MI

**Purpose:** The Michigan Alliance Against Hate Crimes (MIAAHC) in collaboration with the Michigan Department of Civil Rights will host, "MI Response to Hate," a conference to develop community-based response systems to hate and bias incidents in Michigan.

Michigan ranks third in the nation for the number of reported bias-motivated crimes. This event will feature workshops on the status of hate activity in the state, the legal implications of hate speech and the First Amendment, how to build public-private partnerships for crisis response, how to address the needs of limited English proficient communities and how to reduce violence through community coalitions.

**For more information on this conference or the Michigan Alliance Against Hate Crimes visit, <http://www.miaahc.com>.**

***For more information on the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, visit <http://www.michigan.gov/mdcr>.***

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